

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-41 were pending in the present application. No claims were withdrawn from consideration. By virtue of this response, 2 claims have been cancelled, 38 claims have been amended, and no claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-18, and 20-41 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

**Rejection of claims 37-41 under 35 USC §101:**

The Office rejected claims 37-41 under 35 USC §101. In response to the rejection, claims 37-39 have been amended to claim an apparatus and claims 40-41 have been amended to be directed at a computer-readable data signal encoded on a transmission medium, the data signal including a first synchronization acknowledgement message generated by a first device. Therefore, each of claims 37-41 are directed to statutory subject matter, and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 37-41 be withdrawn.

**Rejection of claims 37-39 under 35 USC §112:**

The Office rejected claims 37-39 under the second paragraph of 35 USC §112. In response, claims 37-39 have been amended to more clearly specify that claims 37-39 are to an apparatus. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 37-39 be withdrawn.

**Rejection under 35 USC §102:**

The Office rejected claims 1, 13, 15, 17-19, 31, 33, 35, and 36 under 35 USC §102(e). In response, the Applicants note that the Examiner found claims 2-12, 14, 16, 20-30, 32, and 34 allowable if written in independent form. Therefore, the Applicants have cancelled claim 1 and have incorporated features of claim 1 into claim 2. Because claim 2 no longer depends from a rejected claim, claim 2 is presently allowable. Claims 13, 15, 17, and 18 now depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 2, and therefore these claims are also presently allowable.

Claim 19 was cancelled, and limitations of claim 19 were principally incorporated into claim 20. As claim 20 no longer depends from a rejected claim, claim 20 is therefore also presently allowable. Claims 21-36 now depend directly or indirectly from claim 20, and are also therefore presently allowable by virtue of dependence from an allowable independent claim. By virtue of the above amendments, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejections against claims 13, 15, 17-18, 31, 33, 35, and 36 be withdrawn. Other amendments were made to remedy clerical errors and/or to make more clear what apparatuses, methods, and articles of manufacture the claims may read on.

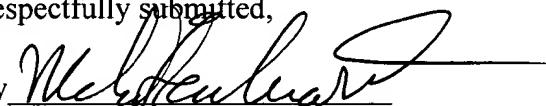
**Conclusion**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections against the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.249212016300. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: April 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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